

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT A 02862 201931Z

21

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /024 W

----- 012841

R 201856Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3162

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2862

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CU, JM, HA

SUBJECT: CODEL BELL: CONVERSATIONS WITH HAITIAN LEADERSHIP ON PEACE
CORPS AND INVESTMENT DISPUTES; IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA

1. CONGRESSMAN ALPHONZO BELL (R-CAL), ACCOMPANIED BY
MRS BELL AND STAFF ASST RICHARD BLADES, VISITED HAITI
OCT 16-19 ON "PRIVATE" VISIT WHICH, IT TURNED OUT, INCLUDED
PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS WITH FONMIN EDNER BRUTUS
AND PRES JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER. APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN
ARRANGED THROUGH GOH AMB SALOMON AND WE LEARNED ABOUT
THEM ONLY INCIDENTALLY FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY SHORTLY BEFORE
CODEL'S ARRIVAL. ONCE THIS ANOMALY HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO
CODEL, HE NOTIFIED GOH OFFICIALS OF HIS WISH TO HAVE AMBASSADOR
ACCOMPANY, AND THIS WAS PROMPTLY ACCEPTED.

2. BELL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BRUTUS AND DUVALIER WERE FRIENDLY
AND PRODUCED NO SURPRISES (MEMCONS CLEARED BY CODEL BEING
POUCHED). AT OUR SUGGESTION BELL ASKED PRESIDENT WHETHER PEACE
CORPS PRESENCE WOULD ASSIST HIS EFFORTS TO BOOST AGRI-
CULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND PRESIDENT, WHEN REMINDED
THAT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON PEACE CORPS ROLE IN HAITI
HAD TAKEN PLACE LAST YEAR, PROMISED TO LOOK INTO CURRENT
STATUS OF PROPOSAL. WE SHALL FOLLOW THIS UP IN ORDER TO
TEST WHETHER GOH RESERVATIONS, EVIDENT LAST YEAR, MAY
BY NOW HAVE DISSIPATED IN LIGHT OF DEMONSTRABLE NEED FOR
QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT A 02862 201931Z

JUST GETTING UNDERWAY. WE WILL, HOWEVER, CAREFULLY AVOID

ANY SUGGESTION OF PRESSURING GOH BUT WILL, AS LAST YEAR, CLARIFY WAYS IN WHICH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS MAY COMPLEMENT GOH EFFORTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS OF EXPERTISE.

3. BELL'S CONVERSATION WITH DUVALIER ELICITED PRESIDENTIAL DISCOURSE ON INVESTMENT DISPUTES, INCLUDING DUPONT-CARIBBEAN AND TRANSLINEAR, IN WHICH PRESIDENT COMPLAINED OF COMPANIES' PRESSURE TACTICS IN ALLEGING EXPORPRIATION WITHOUT FACTUAL BASIS AND SEEKING CONCESSIONS BY RESORTING TO PUBLICITY AND CONGRESSIONAL INTERCESSION. PRESIDENT WAS TOLD THAT DEPT HAS RECENTLY REVIEWED LEGAL MERITS OF CASES AND REACHED PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION THAT NO EXPROPRIATION OR DENIAL OF JUSTICE HAD OCCURRED; HOWEVER, COMPAINES WERE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT FURTHER EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR CLAIMS, AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DO SO. BELL MADE USEFUL POINT THAT GOH SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CLARIFY ITS POSITION AND MAINTAIN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH AMERICAN INVESTORS CLAIMING THEY HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY TREATED. BELL, WHO IS NOW AWARE OF TRANSLINEAR'S EXTORTION ALLEGATIONS AGAINST GOH, INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP THIS POINT IN LETTER TO DUVALIER.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF'S BELL DESCRIBED HIS FOUR-DAY TRIP TO CUBA. HE WAS WELL RECEIVED BUT HAD TO FOLLOW INTENSE SCHEDULE PERMITTING NO UNSUPERVISED JAUNTS. HE FOUND IMPRESSIVE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE, MINING (PARTICULARLY NICKEL AND BAUXITE), EDUCATION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA WAS OMNIPRESENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ECONOMIC PLANNING AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES SEEMED INTELLIGENT, ENERGETIC, AND CONFIDENT. BELL HAD IMPRESSION RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS WERE CLOSE, BUT NOTICED NO VISIBLE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE ON ROUTES TO WHICH HE WAS LIMITED. BELL HAD BEEN PROMISED APPOINTMENT WITH CASTRO, BUT CASTRO TELEEPHONED AT MIDNIGHT TO CANCEL ON GROUNDS THAT CUBANA AIRCRAFT SABOTAGE AND U.S. ALLEGED CULPABILITY THEREFOR BARRED HIM FROM HAVING THE INTERVIEW.

5. BELL LEFT CUBA, HE SAYS, REINFORCED IN HIS BELIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT A 02862 201931Z

THAT U.S. MUST DO MORE TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS IN CARIBBEAN, IF CUBAN INFLUENCE IS TO BE KEPT WITH LIMITS. HE SEES MANY ADJACENT STATES, INCLUDING HAITIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AS VULNERABLE TO CASTRO SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS UNLESS THEY TAKE ACCELERATED MEASURES TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC EQUALITY. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY MENTIONING HIS CUBAN IMPRESSIONS,

BELL EMPHASIZED THIS POINT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH DUVALIER AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE IT MORE SPECIFIC IN HIS FOLLOWUP LETTER.

6. CODEL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ASSISTANCE FURNISHED HIM BY EMBASSY, INCLUDING DETAILED BRIEFINGS IN PREPARATION FOR HIS APPOINTMENTS. HE QUICKLY REALIZED THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF CALLING UPON THE HAITIAN CHIEF OF STATE IN A "PRIVATE CAPACITY AND IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT ON ANY FUTURE TRIPS HE MAY MAKE DURING REMAINDER OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL TERM, HE WILL ASSURE CLOSER COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING FOREIGN OFFICIALS.
ISHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CODELS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA02862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760394-0588
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761033/aaaabbxm.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL BELL: CONVERSATIONS WITH HAITIAN LEADERSHIP ON PEACE CORPS AND INVESTMENT DISPUTES; IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, OREP, CU, JM, HA, (BELL, ALPHONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006